

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)	
)	
Petition for Rulemaking of Fibertech)	
Networks, LLC)	RM – 11303
)	
_____)	

**MOTION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME
TO FILE COMMENTS**

The United Telecom Council (“UTC”), pursuant to Section 1.46(b) of the Commission’s rules, hereby moves to extend the deadlines for filing comments and reply comments in response to the petition for rulemaking in the above-captioned proceeding.¹ The current deadline for comments is January 13, 2006. The current deadline for reply comments is January 31, 2006. UTC requests that the deadline be extended an additional thirty days, making comments due February 13, 2006 and reply comments due March 3, 2006. An extension is necessary due to the technical nature of the proposals in the petition, and to ensure that parties have an adequate opportunity to address those proposals, given the complexity of the issues involved, as well as the holidays arising during both comment periods. This brief extension of time will not prejudice any interested parties and should not interfere with any Commission plans for taking action on the petition.

UTC is the international trade association for the telecommunications and information technology interests of utilities and other critical infrastructure

¹ *Pleading Cycle Established for Petition for Rulemaking of Fibertech Networks, LLC*, Public Notice, DA 05-3182 (rel. Dec. 14, 2005).

industries. Its members range in size from large electric, gas and water utility companies that serve millions of customers to relatively small municipal and cooperatively organized utilities that may serve only a few thousand customers. As many of its members are subject to FCC pole attachment regulation, UTC has participated in numerous Commission pole attachment proceedings on behalf of its members, and it is preparing to comment in depth on the many issues included in the Fibertech petition, as well.

Fibertech has proposed a list of “best practices” for pole attachments that raise significant engineering and operational issues. Its proposals are both complex and detailed. UTC has reviewed the petition, which purports to describe the pole attachment process for poles and conduit, and which bases its proposals on its description of the pole attachment process. Comments in response to these proposals require technical expertise and assistance from utility managers, engineers and administrative personnel, some of whom have been unavailable during the holidays. Moreover, Fibertech’s proposals, if considered by the Commission, would have a wide-ranging effect on the electric power industry, making careful review of the details involved critical to those affected .

In order for UTC and other parties to respond adequately to Fibertech’s petition, UTC respectfully requests that the Commission extend the deadline for comments and replies an additional thirty days, as described above. A thirty-day extension would be reasonable given the complexity of the issues raised and the surrounding circumstances. Although UTC recognizes that the Commission

does not routinely grant extensions of time, the Commission recently did grant similar extensions for similar reasons in two separate proceedings.² Moreover, a thirty-day extension of time would not prejudice the parties to the proceeding, and would serve the public interest by permitting a more complete record when comments are filed.

WHEREFORE, the premises considered, UTC respectfully requests that the Commission extend the deadline for filing comments and reply comments on Fibertech's petition by thirty days.

By: ss
Brett Kilbourne
Director of Regulatory Services and Associate
Counsel

1901 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Fifth Floor
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 872-0030

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² *Implementation of Section 304 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, Order, CS Docket No. 97-80 (rel. Dec. 23, 2005); *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Extends Comment and Reply Comment Deadlines for Association of American Railroads Petition for Consolidation of Licenses Held By Member Railroads Into a Nationwide Geographic License*, Public Notice, DA 05-3218 (rel. Dec. 19, 2005).

SERVICE LIST

Chairman Kevin J. Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Commissioner Deborah Tate
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Sam Feder
Acting General Counsel
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

John T. Nakahata
Brita D. Strandberg
Stephanie Weiner
Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, LLP
1200 Eighteenth Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036

Charles Stockdale
Robert T. Witthauer
Fibertech Networks, LLC
140 Allens Creek Road
Rochester, NY 14618